

February 1988

The

ACE



RNI RADIO
NEWYORK
INTERNATIONAL

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER:

Welcome to the February A.C.E. bulletin! It is coming to you a little later in the month than I would like, but your publishing staff has been a bit under the weather these past several weeks. Things are better now, and hopefully we'll be back on schedule with the newsletter in the first week of March.

This month's edition features our usual fine columns from Kirk, John and George, as well as a specially transcribed interview with the Radio Newyork International staff which was recently broadcast over WNBC radio. Many, many thanks go to member Jim Garrity for his volunteer transcription efforts. Through Jim's careful work, we can all share in the information contained in the WNBC interview. We need more members like you, Jim!

Speaking of which, thanks to those of you who have passed along your compliments and criticism to the publisher and editors of the bulletin. We try hard to put out a first rate newsletter on an all-volunteer basis. No one receives any compensation for their efforts on behalf of the club other than the satisfaction that comes from a job well done. If you have information that you'd like to share in the newsletter, or if you'd like to volunteer to serve on the staff, why not drop me a note?

BULLETIN MATTERS:

Several members have commented that their A.C.E. bulletins have been damaged in the mails. When this occurs, drop me a note to explain the circumstances (perhaps including additional postage) and I will try to send you a duplicate copy. If this is a common occurrence, I want to know it so that appropriate complaints can be brought to the postal service's attention.

The cost of printing and mailing each bulletin equals (and sometimes exceeds) the money taken in from your subscription fees. As such, the club's treasury doesn't permit us to send the bulletins any other way. One way to build up the club's funds and avoid a general dues increase will be to sell back issues of the A.C.E. bulletins...next month's issue should have the long promised back issue order form. These back issues amount to the best source of information available concerning pirate, numbers and clandestine broadcasts over the past five (5) years. More information in the March issue.

NEXT MONTH:

Look for the return of the Spy Numbers column, copies of several new pirate QSL's sent to HQ by monitors, and information about the 1988 A.C.E. Easter Egg Hunt. Until then, best 73 and good listening.

Bill Martin
P.O. Box 1744
Wilmington, DE 19899-1744

Loggings

FEBRUARY

Contributions to the loggings column are gratefully accepted by the deadline of the 15th of each month. Loggings are preferred on logging forms which are available for a SASE. Contributions should be sent to: P.O.B. 2571, Shawnee Mission, KS. 66201. Contributions can also be left on the ACE TBBS at (913) 677-1288.

NORTH AMERICA - MEDIUM WAVE

KROK: 1630, 12/20, 0420-0430. Oldies rock mx with reverb IDs. Static and beacon or RTTY QRM but nice while it lasted. Mail address of Hilo, Hawaii. (MUSCO,CT)

WCPR: 1615, 12/25, 0200-0201, SIO=211. ID tentative, but mentioned that call. Either s/off or disappeared at 0201. Don't know if this is connected with Richolson's UNID from 9/20. Does this stn have anything to do with the original WCPR? (YODER,PA) 1625, 12/27, 0606-0645+, SIO=111. Barely faded in every two minutes. Heard "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" by Cindy Lauper and a contest from a NY FM stn. IDed at 0640 as "WCPR, the station with the rock." OM DJ spoke low and relaxed. Had a vocal fry. (YODER,PA)

WENJ: 1620.3, 12/25, 0117-0159, SIO=312. Usual pgm with anncr Jack Bean and mx including "La Bamba," "Dawning of the Age of Aquarius." Offered Season's Greetings "Merry Christmas, everyone." Identified variously as "all the radio you'll ever need, WENJ;" "pirate, pirate, pirate, pirate;" "New Jersey Pirate;" "1620 Stereo WENJ;" and "New Jersey's Best Pirate." Also mentioned they were on 108.3 FM. Apparently signed off some time between 0159 and 0216. (RICHOLSON,VA) 1620.7, 12/25, 2300-2315, SIO=412. Beatles mx; usual stn identification; possibly took calls during the show. (RICHOLSON,VA) 1620, 1/1, 0708-0910*, SIO=212. Poor reception and fading. Jack Bean with 50's and 60's mx and phone calls from an answering machine. Played "LaBamba" and "Surfin' Safari." Said they were heard in VA, FL, ME & ONT using 150 watts. DJ said this was same WENJ that was on the air back in 1979. (YODER,PA) 1620, 1/2, 0103-0235+, SIO=222. 60's mx and same cart played for PCs played. Also hrd a stn taking PCs on same freq 0705-0740+, but don't know if this was WENJ. (YODER,PA) 1620.5, 1/2, 0108-0407, SIO=323. Songs including "Blue Moon," "Catalina," "Do You Love Me," "Surf City, Here We Come," "Flower Girl," and "LaBamba." Stn identification of "Stereo 1620 WENJ" with anncr Jack Bean. Asked listeners to leave messages at (201) 634-7186. Said QSL cards had been mailed to everyone who had asked for them. (RICHOLSON,VA) 1620, 1/2, 0147-0400*, SIO=555 to 252. Gave QSL number (201) 634-7816. Left message and I received a return call that evening. Signals gradually faded. Anncd that WCPR would follow, which it did, but by then the signals were too weak to be reliably copied. (DECKER,NY) 1620, 1/2, 0244-0330. Oldies rock mx w/ anncr Jack Bean. "The New Jersey Giant, WENJ." Very good signal but with static crashes. Gave answering machine number for a refrigeration service which gave a beeper number for a serviceman. (MUSCO,CT)

NORTH AMERICA - SHORT WAVE

Radio Lymph Node: 7400, 1/3, 1824-1832*, SIO=544. Noted with interview with John Lennon until 1832 when ID was noted: "You have been listening to a special bcst of Radio Lymph Node"

International. This is R-L-N-I, Radio Lymph Node International. Radio Lymph Node International may be reached at P. O. Box 40554, Washington D. C. 20016. Then they went off. (PETRICK,NY)

WFED: 3870, 12/25, 0509-0545+, SIO=423. Rebroadcast of WFED from ?. Played Christmas show that was taped earlier in the evening. TCs were off. Mx by Michael Jackson, Stevie Nicks, Bryan Adams, etc. I hrd a WFED relay down here last Christmas eve. This is probably one of the unid stns that was playing mx earlier in the evening. Moved VFO between 3865 and 3875 several times. (YODER,PA)

WGAT: 7415, 1/1, 0202+, SIO=444. Playing mx at 0202 ranging from mostly 60's & Motown such as Diana Ross "You Can't Hurry Love" to Willy Nelson country mx to more fast-paced mx. Host featured "Dr. Klystron" with a country accent. ID's such as "Deep in the Dismal Swamp of Eastern Virginia." Ended w/ "Gator Radio is a member in good standing of the Rebel Radio Network" then one last song. Left the air at 0215. Hrd them back on the air at 0331-0350 with same format. On 2nd bcst they mentioned using a converted RCA, 36 years old and went into technical aspects of it. Said antenna was a dipole, supported 60 feet above the northern edge of the dismal swamp, hanging between two cyprus trees. (TROMP,MI) 7419.7 / 7419.9, 1/1, 0209-0215* & *0329-0349*, SIO=433-434. Logged this stn twice with two separate bcsts made. First bcst had poor quality audio on the musical selections and ended abruptly and un-announced at 0215. The second bcst had much better audio fidelity overall, and "Dr. Klystron" the anncr said that the stn was part of the "Rebel Radio Network." Stn played 60's mx by various artists. Production values for both bcsts were sloppy with long periods of dead air. RTTY QRM was ever-present. (GARRITY,NY) 7415, 1/1, 0145-0201. Same pgm as outlined in 2/86 A*C*E. Mentioned Box 83 in Warfield, VA. Very strong signal with no fades or static or any other QRM. Dedicated song to Darren Leno. (MUSCO,CT) 7415, 1/1, 0208-0215*, SIO=444. 100% readable. Mx by Supremes and various other artists. Pulled the plug at 0215. (PETRICK,NY) 7415, 1/1, 0336-0347*, SIO=444. Logged again with pgm in progress. Mx included "The Duke of Earl." Details of the xmtr and antenna were given. (PETRICK,NY)

Zeppelin Radio Worldwide: 3450, 12/20, 0335-0408. New frequency for them. Played mx by The Knack, George Thorogood, Charlie Daniels and AC/DC. Many ads: Zeppelin Beer brewed from heavy water, Dr. Peabody's Pills and Von Richtofen's Travel Agency in downtown Dusseldorf. Annncr mentioned being silent for awhile due to homework. Signal good with absolutely no QRM on this portion of the band. (MUSCO,CT) 7415, 1/1, 0201-0228. ZRW came on right after WGAT left the air. Signal not as strong as WGAT but still good with no QRM as 7415 seems vacant at this hour on weekends now. Usual mix of mx with some pre-WWII military marches and one ID has a song from Das Boot in it. Hilo address for QSL cards featuring a picture of Graf Zeppelin. (MUSCO,CT) 7440, 1/2, 0401-0431. ZRW again with what appeared to be same pgm that was aired on 12/20. Signal fair but readable through static. Annncr said he was flying over Ohio City, Ohio which was having a big New Year's Eve party with fireworks. Signed off with "Who are You" by AC/DC. (MUSCO,CT)

UNIDENTIFIEDS

1620, 12/20, 0443-0445*, SIO=232. Hrd stn playing a kind of industrial-type dance instrumental song, then immediate sign-off. (YODER,PA)

1620.4, 1/2, 0458-0525, SIO=212. Pgm consisted of a listener talking to annncr. Unable to tell if this was just a continuation of the WENJ pgm or if it was a different stn. (RICHOLSON,VA)

1620.6, 1/1, 0035-0048, SIO=312. Began w/ monologue on political events including Nixon and the White House Tapes; Kissinger; embargo on Libya. Then rock mx followed by a notice to Vietnam veterans. Song "I Fought the Law and the Law Won." Pgm ended at 0048 when the male annncr said "shut this off for a minute." (RICHOLSON,VA)

3865, 12/25, 0105-0119* 0133-0213* 0339-0345*, SIO=534. Stn playing just Christmas mx. Back on at 0339 with audio from Snoopy and the Red Baron Christmas Show. Is an ID too much to ask from these stns??? (YODER,PA) 3867.6, 12/25, 0332-0345*, SIO=534. Mx story of Snoopy vs the Red Baron. Ended abruptly. (RICHOLSON,VA)

3872.1, 12/25, 0220-0320, SIO=534. Presumed pirate. No annncmts hrd. Pgm consisted of songs including "Knights in White Satin," "As My Baby Passed By," and "Cherish." PSE QSL. (RICHOLSON,VA)

3875->3880, 12/25, 0315-0505*, SIO=533. Played album "Yesterdays" by Yes, then a classical album. Followed by an old-time type radio show where a country narrator described different people in the area. Off in mid sentence. (YODER,PA)

3883.2, 12/25, 0346-0509, SIO=545. Started w/ songs including Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." Followed by a series of stories (maybe Will Rogers??) Abrupt end of xmsn. (RICHOLSON,VA)

3885, 12/20, 0444-0500* 0505-0519*, SIO=333. Played a disco-type album until 0500 s/off. Came back at 0505 playing an OM-folk-type album. Why does this freq become populated with UNIDS during the holidays?? (YODER,PA)

7415, 12/21, 0026-0105+, SIO=322. Stn just playing SS pop tunes with no ID. Occasional dead air. Audio was decent although it popped some and there was xmtr drift. (YODER,PA)



"I'll build our defense on the one thing we've got going for us—you were crystal controlled."

VERIED RESPONSE

JOHN T. ARTHUR, PROPRIETOR
BOX 716
PAHOA, HAWAII 96778

Please send your QSL reports, information and comments to the above address or leave them in the [P]ersonal Mail section of the ACE RBBS prior to the 20th of the month. VR is electronically transmitted to ACE Hdq on or before the 24th.

"No matter how you slice it, it's still baloney."
Al Smith

*** What's News ***
the media report

One way to increase your QSL return from shortwave broadcasters in third world countries is to enclose International Reply Coupons, but not all nations know what to do with them. A better idea is to enclose mint stamps from their nation. Great idea, but how do you get these stamps? For starters, send a #10 SASE to: William J. Plum, 12 Glenn Rd, Flemington, NJ 08822, and ask for the latest foreign airmail stamp list. The list I saw had 141 countries on it and more are added every month; moreover, prices are reasonable.

Punk with a vengeance is available from Pusmort Records. Send a stamp to Pushead, PO Box 701, San Francisco, CA 94101 and ask for their record list. If you send 'em \$1 they'll send you three stickers in return. Music for those who want to be hard of hearing; Pusmort.

Looking for equipment? Maybe a new receiver? Check these places:

Ham Trader Yellow Sheets, Box 2057, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138
subscription: \$10 for 24 issues

Ross Distributing Co, Box 234, Preston, ID 83263
send \$10 SAE with 39-cents postage; ask for used equipment list

Burghardt Amateur Center, Box 73 Watertown, SD 57201
ask for flyer

--- SAY YOU READ IT IN THE A*C*E ---

"The place where I come from is a small town,
they think so small and use small words.
But not me, I've worked it out;
I'll be stretching my mouth
to let those big words come right out."
--Peter Gabriel 'Big Time'

dis's und dots...
(formerly Ye Olde Rumor Mill)

...74-WKUE, Secret Mtn Labs, WYMN and VoBob all claim to have caught up with outstanding reports (you may recall that they all ran out of cards at about the same time)...if you sent a report but never heard from one of them please send a follow-up report via Box 5074...KROK and ZRWW are both ordering new cards as well...

...word from Phil Muzik is that KNBS now has some nice pennants to send along with their cannabis-fiber QSL cards...if you've heard the KNBS crew but not reported 'em, you really should send your report via the Battle Creek 'drop'...



...a newcomer with a tight board and a sense of humor is Radio Garbanzo...they've popped up in the 41 meterband on a few occasions but with no reported reception...programming features 'music that FM stations used and threw away in their search for bigger profits' and zany, original commercials...and they're now using Box 5074...watch for Radio Garbanzo coming soon to a radio near you...they're not nuts; they're beans...

...another new station to watch for is Alpha Centauri...this QRP operation uses 9830 kHz a few times each year, primarily as a propagation experiment, but they would like your reports and promise to QSL if proper postage is enclosed...oh yes, almost forgot - they also use the Hilo 'drop'...

*****> bootleg bibliography <*****
by: Justin Case

When Pirates Rules the Airwaves, by Paul Harris
1968, 2nd edition; Impulse Publications

Broadcasting From the High Seas, by Paul Harris
1977; Paul Harris Publishing

Rebel Radio - The Full Story of British Pirate Radio, by John Hind
1985; Pluto Press
available from: Longwood Publishing Group, \$5.95
51 Washington St, Dover, NH 03820

The Pleasure and Perils of Pirating
Pan-Com International, \$9.95
Box 130, Paradise, CA 95969

The Complete Manual of Pirate Radio, by Zeke Teflon
available from: Loompanics Unlimited, \$3
Box 1197, Pt Townsend, WA 98368

Free Radio Handbook, various
available from: DVS, \$2 (cash)
Box 5074, Hilo, HI 96720

If you have complete information on additional publications of interest to Free Radio enthusiasts, please send it to Ye Ed at the column address. Thanks.

+++ under the door +++

the QSL report for: February 1988

Connecticut member Ron Musco got a yellow full-data unsigned card from KROK - 1630 kHz in what must be record time - 3 days.

Illinois member George Mendyk sez he received a prompt date-only reply from WYMN for a broadcast in April, 1986 - in only 638 days!

Guess what? Ye Olde Columniste tacked up a truly unique full data form letter QSL from KQRP/KRZY - 7430 signed by both Captain Crazy and Doctor X for a broadcast in September, 1984. The handwritten QSL was on a Notice of Apparent Liability form!

Best of DX and 73 from Rocky Alil (the low maintenance cat) and me...

*****AN A*C*E EXCLUSIVE*****
 *****THE RADIO NEWYORK INTERNATIONAL INTERVIEW*****

transcribed
 by
 Jim Garrity

On January 11, 1988, The Alan Colmes Show on WNBC Radio had several members of the Radio NewYork International group on as guests for an interesting three hour broadcast. The following is an excerpted transcription of the broadcast, which touched upon many issues dealing with the background of this organization, as well as their plans for future operations. I hope the members of A*C*E will enjoy the information contained herein.

 Alan Colmes: And the Radio Pirates are here, ladies and gentlemen. I LOVE these guys. With us are Hank Hayes, Jim Nasium, J.P. Ferraro, Ivan Rothstein, Randi Steele, and Josh Gaffin. Pete Sayek was supposed to be here too, but he couldn't make it. Also, we have Alan Weiner with us via the telephone, since he's in Florida at the moment.

First let's refresh the audience's memory about you guys. First of all, you guys used to harass the hell out of me and a lot of other radio personalities on the telephones for many, many years, since you were radio freaks, and you couldn't get on the air yourselves. Then, years later, I hear that you guys have a Pirate Ship off the coast of Long Island, and you're broadcasting. You started your OWN radio station. Which one of you was the technical wizard that set this up?

Ferraro: Actually, the Engineering was done by a lot of people, including myself and Alan Weiner. That's basically the technical crew of the ship. And, we got the station on the air, we did four days of broadcasting last summer, until our pals, our buddies, our friends and personal acquaintances from the FCC, those guys that you love to see knocking on your door, staged an illegal arrest and boarding of our ship.

Colmes: You were in International Waters, weren't you?

Ferraro: We were in International Waters, outside the territorial limits of the United States.

Colmes: The ship was owned by whom?

Ferraro: It was owned by a corporation.

Colmes: wasn't it owned by a foreign country, Guatemala or somebody?

Ferraro: No, it was registered in Honduras, but not owned by them. Our corporation owns it.

Colmes: That Honduran registry was your downfall, wasn't it?

Steele: The staging area for the Contras, Honduras.

Ferraro: Actually, that wasn't our downfall in particular. Our downfall, if you can call it such, was that the U.S. government staged an illegal boarding operation, and an illegal arrest on the high seas.

Colmes: And all you guys want to do is have fun on the radio?

Steele: Yeah, and play some good rock and roll for a change.

Ferraro: Now people might ask, "Well, how come their actions against RNI were illegal? They did shut you down, didn't they?" They did charge two people, Alan Weiner and Ivan Rothstein, with criminal acts, but, when push came to shove and the day in court came, they dropped the charges, because they knew that they couldn't make them stick, and that's the whole point of the matter. The government had no jurisdiction, although they said they did.

Colmes: What happened to your equipment?

Ferraro: The equipment was bashed and roused, lets say. They weren't very nice to it. The station was dismantled, cut up, and dumped in a pile in front of the ship's studio room.

Colmes: Where is the ship now?

Ferraro: It's up in Boston.

Colmes: What did this whole thing cost you?

Ferraro: It's hard to say. Somewhere between fifty and one hundred thousand dollars, approximately.

Colmes: Where did you get the money?

Ferraro & Steele: It was all scrounged up, mostly. Personal savings, donations, and the like. There were people that were interested in the project, and they helped us out financially.

Colmes: Where could the station's signal be heard? How many watts were you putting out?

Ferraro: Just about all over the Metropolitan area. At night, the AM got out quite well.

Steele: The AM and the shortwave were heard all over the country. We were running only 300 watts on FM, which was only a tenth of what we were capable of running. On the AM, we were running a kilowatt, but had a 5 kilowatt capability, and we were going to bring it up to full power on the night of the illegal boarding.

Colmes: So now the FCC has dropped all charges against you?

Ferraro: The FCC had to, since they couldn't make them stick.

Hayes & Ferraro: The charges were so ambiguous. First of all, they carried out an illegal operation in International Waters, where the FCC has NO jurisdiction, unless the ship in question is registered in the US, which we obviously weren't. The government has a tremendous advantage, obviously, because when they want to trump up charges against someone, they just tell their police agencies to go to it, and they do. This may look great in the press, but when it comes down to the day in court, when the men are separated from the boys, and push comes to shove, there was NOTHING they could do!!

Colmes: So right now you have no charges against you, and you're looking to start all over again, then?

Ferraro: There are no charges against anybody, and we WILL return.

Colmes: I'd like to go to the 'phones and talk to some people that heard your station in a little while, but first let's talk to Alan Weiner from Florida. Alan, let me ask you a question. If you guys could get jobs at legitimate, licensed commercial radio stations, would you do it, or is there more to this "pirate radio" thing that you're doing?

Weiner: Unfortunately, Alan, they don't pay you anything if you work in commercial broadcasting, unless you are a major talent.

Colmes: Oh, yeah, and I bet you make a fortune as a pirate, eh?

Weiner: Well, I can tell you this, Alan. RNI is going to be a commercial venture, and we plan to sell spots at very reasonable rate, since we will not have the same overhead as a land-based station, and we fully expect to profit from the venture when it gets rolling. At that point, we project that our earning potential would be greater than if we worked at a low-level job in "legitimate" commercial radio.

Colmes: So you're going to sell commercial time broadcasting from International Waters, into the New York market?

Weiner: Right. We are planning to broadcast an omnidirectional signal on all bands, so we should cover the NYC area quite well.

Colmes: You probably will be heard by a lot of fish, as well.

Ferraro: we'd rather have the sharks than the FCC!!

Hayes: Al, it's not so much a matter of wanting to have jobs in radio. We all feel that over the years we have demonstrated our ability to operate a radio station.

Colmes: But are you guys just "radio freaks" or "radio rats"?

Ferraro: Well, obviously we all LOVE radio. I mean, none of us would be doing this if we didn't. We'd all be account executives on Wall Street jumping out of windows now if we didn't love radio.

Steele: And one of the points that you asked about, if we would want to work at mainstream radio stations--RNI is dedicated to the freedom of expression of the broadcaster to play the music and air the views that they want to, and basically to put their own shows together. There are very few radio stations that are owned by major corporations that can afford to take the chance to allow people to engage in radio as a communicative art form.

Colmes: But what would happen if everybody that had the means to do so were to set up offshore radio stations? Wouldn't they interfere with established, commercial radio stations?

Ferraro: First of all, that's not a very sensible thing for somebody to do, since the net result would be that there would now be two stations on a channel which would not be heard, due to the inevitable interference. Why would anyone want to do that? It would defeat their purpose, and certainly would not be

cost-effective. This interference argument, which is always brought up when this subject is discussed, is really a non-issue, since the prospective new station wants to be heard, and not be interfered with. It is not the big issue that the FCC would have you believe.

Colmes: But wasn't there a complaint that RNI's FM transmitter was interfering with a station on 103.1 megahertz?

Ferraro: Yes, there is an FM translator on that frequency, rebroadcasting a station from Trenton, NJ. The translator is located in Fort Lee, NJ. The interesting thing about this frequency is that I had applied, along with Alan Weiner, several years ago, for a station license in Yonkers, NY, which is a community of 200 thousand people, which has NO media outlets whatsoever. The FCC turned us down flat, stating that we would be too close to NYC stations on adjacent channels. However, they granted this frequency to a fellow who is seven miles closer to NYC than we were, and he has a much higher antenna elevation that we would have had. I feel that there was some kind of bias or discrimination against us in this decision, and, at any rate, a translator operation, like the one in Fort Lee, is a secondary service, and has low priority when compared with an application for a primary station application. It was unfair to deny us this channel on this basis.

Hayes: You see, Alan, traditionally the decisions made by the FCC are, at best, illogical and arbitrary, and at worst, CORRUPT.

Colmes: Well, we could say that about ANY law that is made by any government body, but does that then give us the right to take it upon ourselves to disobey the law?

Ferraro: But we weren't disobeying the law by broadcasting from International Waters, number one. And number two, the FCC IS characterized by ineptitude. You can run right down the list of all the major things they've done in the last twenty or thirty years, and you will see that the Commission is hallmarked by ineptitude.

Hayes: And the information is all available for all to see. It is part of the Public Records. It's right there.

Colmes: So it's your position, then, that ANYONE with the technological know-how can establish a frequency in International Waters, not governed by any nation, that could interfere with the communications of that nation?

Ferraro: It's not MY position or principle, it is FACT.

Steele: The International Telecommunications Union, which dictates the worldwide frequency allocations and how they may be used, has expanded the potential AM broadcast licensing of all the countries in the Northern Hemisphere to 1700 kilohertz, but the FCC is refusing to allocate, and to this date, has NO plans to assign any radio stations to these ten frequencies that are available above the AM band. You could easily put 5 broadcasting ships off the coastline of the New York area, and there would be no interference to ANY existing broadcasters.

Ferraro: The FCC will not deal with the expansion of the AM band until 1991, at the earliest.

Colmes: But what if you establish a frequency of 1620 kilohertz, and the FCC then assigns that to someone else?

Ferraro: Tough luck!!

Weiner: There would be interference, then, which would be mutually damaging to both signals.

Colmes: But doesn't the FCC, as a governmental body, have the right to assign these frequencies?

Ferraro: Certainly it does.

Hayes: Wouldn't it be nice if they would assign us 1620 kilohertz, let's say, in Yonkers?

Ferraro: We tried to get that. I have papers here to show you, Alan, about the whole KPF-941 story, which was a LICENSED auxiliary broadcast transmitter, licensed to operate in Yonkers. It was fully signed by the FCC, the license was hanging on the wall of the transmitter facility.

Colmes: So you were given a license by the FCC? Who owned the license, and what happened?

Ferraro: Alan Weiner and I owned it. I'll tell you the story of what happened. You see, auxiliary broadcast stations were originally set up so that regular broadcast stations could use them for various purposes, to assist their operations. It just so happens that one or two of those auxiliary broadcast channels were adjacent to the AM band, 1622 kilohertz was the one we had, and any ordinary AM radio could pick it up.

Colmes: So you're saying that you had a license from the FCC to operate? Where? On what frequency?

Ferraro: We were licensed to operate from Yonkers, NY, on 1622 kilohertz, with a measly 100 watts of power. But the FCC claimed that since we were broadcasting directly to the general public in Yonkers, that we were in violation of the rules for auxiliary broadcast stations. But let me read you the rules here. There is one small section here that applies to the argument: "Remote pickup broadcast base and mobile stations (and that was our classification) in Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, may be used for any purpose related to the programming or technical operation of a broadcasting station, EXCEPT FOR transmissions intended for direct reception by the general public." Well, Yonkers, in case you haven't noticed, is nowhere near the aforementioned areas that direct broadcasting was expressly prohibited. The rule didn't apply to us.

Colmes: So what happened? You set up a station in Yonkers and were broadcasting on 1622 kilohertz to the general public? When did this take place?

Ferraro: About three years ago.

Colmes: For how long were you on the air? What happened?

Ferraro: We were on, in total, for about a month and a half, then we were shut down by the FCC.

Colmes: So why didn't you fight that ruling against you in court instead of getting involved with this operation in International Waters?

Ferraro: Frankly, at that point, we didn't have the money. It takes a LOT of money to wage a lawsuit before the FCC in Washington, D.C.. This is the type of thing that can escalate into the hundreds of thousands of dollars in court costs very quickly.

Hayes: And it could take twenty years to get a decision on the case.

Steele: And you could easily get an arbitrary decision from the FCC in the end, anyway.

Ferraro: Let's finish up the KPF-941 story. Since Yonkers was not in any of those locations stated in the regulations, so it was our contention that the rule, as written, stated that we COULD broadcast to the general public, but the FCC shut down the station anyway. I also have here a notice for unlicensed operation that was served to us, for a station that HAD a license!!

Steele: It was hanging on the wall right next to the transmitter.

Colmes: So why do you think that the FCC is singling you guys out for harassment?

Ferraro: I don't know if they are necessarily singling us out, but they are definitely operating in a capricious and arbitrary manner. They are a jealous organization. They are jealous of their power, and don't like to be challenged.

Colmes: But why are they capricious and jealous at YOUR expense?

Weiner: Alan, the people in your studio are a representation of a desire and a dream that started as far back as 1971. All of the people there, and myself, have consistently tried to get some kind of access to the broadcast media in the NYC metropolitan area, but the Commission, especially through the Field Office in New York, HAS consistently singled out a lot of the members of our organization, and it has taken overkill measures against us. The KPF-941 situation is a perfect example. Here we were trying to provide community programming to Yonkers, granted, it was only a small 100 watt station, but it was more than Yonkers had at the time, or since, and granted, we found a loophole in the law, and we used it. We followed the law, and we got a license, and played by their rules, and for our reward, the Commission came in and instituted a revocation of ALL of my licenses that I legitimately held. This meant that I would have to spend vast amounts of money in legal fees to try to fight these revocation proceedings against me in court, to defend my other broadcast holdings, as well as KPF-941. Financially, I couldn't do it. So, in the end, we had to opt for what is known as a Minority Distress Sale Buyout. The Commission said: "Well, since you don't have the money to defend yourself, sell all of your radio stations to a minority group, as recognized by the Federal government, at a 25% loss, and we won't revoke your licenses." That's what I HAD to do. So, basically, Radio NewYork International is nothing more than the culmination of the desires of a group of Americans to get legal access to the New York radio market, but has consistently been denied in their efforts by the government.

Colmes: But why is it so important for you guys to be on the radio?

Ferraro: Because it's something that we all have always wanted to do! This is America, not Nazi Germany, for goodness sakes!! We're supposed to have the right to free speech, as stated in the First Amendment.

Weiner: we certainly have a right, at least, to PERSUE a legal means to gain access to the media. That's what we've been doing for the last so many years, but we have been denied.

Colmes: What if you got a group together to try to purchase a legitimately licensed station, if not in New York City, then maybe in Westchester or some other suburb of the City?

Hayes: That's an unrealistic goal for people of our means, even for a suburban outlet.

Steele: Even suburban stations anywhere near this market sell for between 10 and 20 MILLION dollars. We have researched this. That is fully 40 times over what we have been able to raise for RNI. There is just no other way.

Ferraro: Just one last word on KPF-941. It is interesting that the FCC dropped from it's frequency allocations the remote pickup frequencies of 1606, 1622, and 1646 kilohertz AFTER the KPF-941 incident. If we were, in fact, violating their rules by our actions at KPF-941, then why did they find it necessary to drop these channels for use by ALL other legally licensed auxiliary broadcast stations? It would seem, by this action, that we were, in fact, NOT violating any rule, so they dropped those channels that were adjacent to the AM broadcast band so that nobody else that held a license for the use of these frequencies could ever again attempt to use them the way we tried to. If we were flat-out in violation of the existing rules, it seems that no modification of these channel assignments would have been called for.

Colmes: So what are you guys going to now? Are you looking to raise money to get back on the air?

Ferraro & Steele: We ARE going back on the air.

Colmes: Are you going to use the same ship, and are you going to go back into International Waters again?

Steele: We're going to use the same ship. It's been re-fitted and painted and all of the damage done by the FCC has been repaired. We're going back to the same location, and back on the same frequencies that we had used back in the summer.

Colmes: When do you think that you will be ready to do this?

Steele & Ferraro: In the springtime.

Colmes: O.K., fine. I want to be invited as a guest on your station, because I want as much time to promote myself on your station as I've given you on my show!!

Ferraro: You've got it, Alan. We'd be glad to have you aboard.

Colmes: But what about a pirate "talk" station? You are going to be a rock & roll station, right?

Ferraro: Yes, we will be primarily a rock station, but we will have AM as well as FM stations on board, and there will be time set aside on one of them for other types of programs, like talk shows.

Colmes: So you're not going to be simulcasting on all frequencies?

Ferraro: well, we will be simulcasting most of the time, but, we've got the complete freedom to split up the programming and do whatever we want to do. Sure, if you want to do an "Alan Colmes Pirate Talk Show", we can do it. That's the beauty of our operation!

Colmes: The way things are going here, I may be coming to you guys for work very shortly. But, in addition to your love of radio, isn't your motivation in this project also a deep feeling on your part that there is a void in the New York radio market?

Steele: ABSOLUTELY! As someone who is a diehard rock & roll fan, I can't listen to radio in the NY area and find a station that is willing to do things a little differently.

Colmes: But there are so many stations playing rock music. None of them please your tastes?

Steele: True, and it's amazing how alike most of them are. The sameness is staggering! Stale rock, mellow stations, and "thump-thump" disco type dance music. We can do better.

Ferraro: But pirate radio is MORE than just music. It is radio that is not bound in chains by a format, where, if you want to do something different at the spur of the moment, you're free to. You're not bound by playlists and program directors that are trying to exert control over every single thing that is done on the station. Our contention is that to make radio fresh and vibrant again, you have got to let people get on the air and do what THEY want to do. And if that means doing something different at times, then GREAT! That's what it is for! It's not supposed to be stale.

Weiner: Also, RNI is probably going to be the only station that has a real "theme" behind it, and that is the furtherance of love, peace, and understanding. And through our music and the messages of our individual air personalities, we hope to encourage that goal.

Colmes: Right. O.K., what I want to do next is to talk to our listeners and get their opinions on what you are doing. After all, the public owns the airwaves, and they should decide if your position is correct. It may sound corny, but I've always felt that when you're on the air, you are a trustee of the public, and you owe them that respect. So, now I'm putting the question to the audience: What do you think? Do these guys have the right to do what they're doing? Do you think that there is something missing on the airwaves in the NY area, and do you think that these guys can fill that void, if there is one? Philosophically, do you support what they are doing? Before we go to the phones, though, I have one more question. Can your operation sustain itself for seven days a week, 24 hours a day all year round? And also, how are you guys making a living? I know Randi Steele used to be a producer for Alex Bennett's radio show some years back, but what about the rest of you, what are you working at now?

Steele: The ship is a converted oceangoing freighter. There's no problem with having it out at sea all year round, and we'll be there.

Hayes: I own a Good Humor truck. I sell ice cream for a living. I do have a comment on what we were talking about before concerning the stagnant state of radio today. I feel that there is a great limitation on competition in this market.

Colmes: But there are 84 different signals in the NY radio market, how can there be no competition?

Ferraro: And they're all about as stale as last week's bread!!

Hayes: Believe me, Alan, I have more competition on my ice cream route than any rock & roll radio station has in NY.

Colmes: Yes, and another problem is that we're "researched" to death!! Every radio station has got the computers, the empty suit research consultants analyzing everything to death. We've lost the human element in this medium.

Steele: And there's another problem as well, and it's a human problem. When you put people in control as a program director of a music station, they seem to adopt programming philosophies regarding the music that tend to be very dogmatic. So, consequently, when you try to do a little experimentation, even what will fit inside the format, a program director will research it, and will weigh the experimentation against his particular operating philosophy, and this breeds stagnancy in the music formatting of a station, and that's why NY radio particularly is so bad.

Colmes: One last question on the FCC. This past year the FCC has been busy redefining what is considered to be obscenity on the airwaves, even though it has been six months, and we STILL don't have their new guidelines, at any rate, since you guys say that you are not bound by FCC rules while operating in International Waters, could you use the "seven dirty words" or other obscenities on your station, and will you?

Steele: We would be able to, but we don't have any intention of doing that, because we're not out to broadcast obscenities, we're out to entertain people, and we don't feel that obscenity is necessarily the best way to entertain people. We would like to hear from the listeners, and perhaps even get their opinions on what they would like us to play on the station, even as far as sending us demo recordings from new bands, since we want to be a showcase for new musical talent, and we have a new mailing address where we can be reached for input and/or contributions. It is Radio NewYork International, P.O. Box 010073, Staten Island, N.Y., 10301-0003. It's a long number, but we had a lot of problems with our old P.O. box, even to the extent that during the height of our operation last summer, the delivery of mail to our old maildrop was suspended for one whole day, when we were averaging large numbers of letters coming in before and after that day, so we don't know what happened to that mail, but we never received a lot of things that we were later told were sent to us.

Colmes: Are you saying that the FCC did this? Aren't you a little bit paranoid about this?

Steele: We don't have any confirmation of this, but mail was suspended for one day, and we never did get it subsequently. It was very suspicious to us that during the peak time of our mail reception that we received NOTHING at all for one day.

Colmes: When you get back on the air in the spring in International Waters, do you anticipate a fight?

Ferraro: There may very well be one. We are prepared.

Colmes: Alan, since you are with us via the telephone, and the connection isn't the best, it will only sound worse when we try to conference calls from our listeners, so I'm going to say goodbye and thanks for being with us today.

Weiner: Thank you, Alan for having me on. And to the guys there in the studio, I miss you, and I'll be seeing you all soon.

Colmes: OK, now to the audience. What's your opinion? Do you think we should have "pirate" radio? The airways belong to you, so what do you think of these guys and their plans? Let's go to the phones.

Caller: I work for WPST in Trenton, NJ, and I'd like to ask if the station that the RNI FM station was interfering with was the translator that we (WPST) have in Fort Lee, NJ on 103.1 MHz?

Ferraro & Steele: Yes, that's the one that the complaint came from. However, the FCC rules state that a translator must have totally independent ownership from the station that it is rebroadcasting, so if you are saying that your station owns or is supporting financially the operation of that translator, then your station is in violation of current FCC rules.

Colmes: Thanks. Next caller:

Caller: Hello, pirates. I'm in a great state of depression over the state of rock radio in NYC. I'm a big rock fan, and I find that most of the stations here are very repetitive. The only stations that are worth listening to are the college stations, where they play a lot of new music, and experiment more with their music mixes.

Colmes: Let me say something here. I think that in addition to rock & roll, we need pirate radio that doesn't restrict itself only to music. There's a dearth of good entertainment radio here like this, that is not music-oriented. When you think of talk-radio type stations, you automatically think of financial advisors, or psychologists, or other "serious" issues. There's nobody having FUN on the radio anymore!

Steele: Ideally, it can and should be mixed. That's what we're going to be all about.

Caller: How would your station be different, then, from the other ones here in NYC?

Steele: We would mix a lot of the rock music that you are used to hearing on some of the college stations in the area, (and some of them do quite a good job) and we would mix that with some of the more progressive oldies and even more rock & roll top 40 oldies from the 50's, 60's, 70's, and put it all together in a true "Roots of Rock & Roll" wide spectrum package.

Caller: What if my musical taste runs to Aerosmith, the Sex Pistols, and old Black Sabbath? would I hear stuff like that on RNI?

Steele: In the measly 24 hours of operation we had back in the summer, we played every one of those groups, so yes, we would have something for you.

Colmes: Thank you. Listeners, even if you don't care about rock music, philosophically, what do you think of what these guys are doing? Next caller.

Caller: Hey, whats up guys? I've listened to you before on Stereo Nine and W---, and you guys are GREAT!! I really think that you're original and not bogus like K-Rock or WNEW-FM.

Colmes: What is that? Those stations you mentioned?

Ferraro: They're pirate radio stations.

Colmes: Where do you hear this, sir? Where are these stations?

Caller: Oh, they're around the dial. You have to search for them. You get them all over the place, y'know.

Colmes: Are you guys currently broadcasting?

Guests: Well, NAAAAH. We wouldn't do that!! It's ILLEGAL!!

Colmes: In other words, you guys are not on the air any place right now?

Ferraro: That's illegal! We're busy with RNI!!

Hayes: Well, we're on the air right now, aren't we?

Steele: We couldn't do that, things are too HOT now!

Colmes: So, are you saying that there was a time in the past when you did things that were illegal? Did you guys have illegal pirate stations in your basements, at one time?

Ferraro: US??? PERISH the thought!! What do YOU think, Alan?

Colmes: I think that I'm talking to Joe Biden, that's what I think.

Steele: I don't think any of us EVER had stations in our basements, that's for sure! It's pretty hard to broadcast from a basement.

Colmes: What about an attic? Guests: Well, let's just say that some of us may have had studios that got "lucky" once in a while.

Colmes: If I were to assume the hypothesis that you, at sometime in your lives, had pirate stations that were NOT sanctioned by the FCC, which did not fall within the realm of law, for you then to tout yourselves as being law-abiding citizens following the rules currently existing, that would be hypocritical, wouldn't it?

Ferraro: We're just saying that anything we might have done in the past has NO bearing on the relative legality of RNI.

Steele: What we're saying, as well, is that there have never been any charges brought against us, again, except for the incident in Yonkers, years ago.

Hayes: Alan, it's obvious, by the actions that we have taken, like taking the ship out, that we're willing to go to great lengths, and take great risks to get on the air, because we believe that we have the RIGHT to be on the air!

Colmes: So you're like the early American revolutionaries, right?

Ferraro: Yeah! Revolution! Radio for the people, by the people, and of the people!

Colmes: Next caller.

Caller: Hi, Alan. Hi, pirates. Listen, I have a comment and a question for your guests. I've listened to these guys for a long time, on RNI, and other places, and let me say that I'm 100% behind them. These fellows that are in your studio right now have a lot of talent--talent that is not being exploited by the NY radio market. They are funny, and have great on-air personalities, and they TRULY offer an alternative to what we have on the air in this town now!

Colmes: OTHER places?

Caller: Well, I think that maybe they had a "Mr. Microphone" or something like that, using FCC Part 15 approved, low power devices.

Ferraro: The FCC even outlawed those small, 200 milliwatt FM transmitters you used to be able to legally use at one time.

Colmes: I think NY radio STINKS compared with some of the stuff that's going on in other parts of the country.

Caller: That's true, because I think that, due to the enormous size of the market, station managers are not willing to take risks in trying new ideas on their stations, because a fall of even one rating point makes a major impact on the station's advertising rates, and nobody in charge is willing to be responsible for an idea that may not go over well.

Colmes: I would just like to thank WNBC for giving me a chance and taking the risk in letting me do my show here, and, anyway, we COULDN'T fall a whole rating point here if we wanted to!

Caller: Alan, there's a place for you in pirate radio, too. Let me ask a question, though. Fellows, in light of the fact that the FCC has taken arbitrary and capricious actions in the past, both against KPF-941 and RNI, what efforts are being made to assure that it won't happen again with the "new" RNI?

Ferraro: Well, we are taking suit against the Federal government. We have a lawsuit pending in the courts.

Caller: What about the nation of Registry of the ship? I think that was a big mistake, initially.

Ferraro: Yes, in retrospect, it might have been a mistake.

Steele: We are going to operate with the same ship, but we are working on new Registry at the moment. We will NOT go with the same nation of Registry as before.

Colmes: Thank you. Next caller.

Caller: I support their right to broadcast, without a doubt! There's a complete void in the marketplace right now.

Colmes: Thanks. Next caller.

Caller: Hello. I'd just like to say that I think that your station should play folk music in addition to rock. I was a radio personality on KPF-941, and I considered myself the political and social conscience of that station, and folk music is really the medium that political and social music has been based on.

Today, there are performers that are folk artists that are as on the money about today's issues as Dylan was in the 60's, and I think it's important that people hear them. They get no airplay at all in this market.

Steele: Folk music is one of the great under-rated and lacking music forms on the air today. I would agree with the caller.

Colmes: Thanks. Next call.

Caller: I don't agree that these guys should do this. I went to college, and got my Third Class license, and I think that they should get a license and broadcast legally, like all the other stations do. If all these callers would write letters and send petitions to the FCC in support of them, the government would HAVE to give them an assignment!

Ferraro: Believe me, sir, we've tried to get a license, that's very easy for you to say, but it's not easy to do. And I don't know what college you went to, but you must be pretty naive if you think that letters of support or petitions in our favor would have any bearing on the way that the FCC treats us and our applications. The FCC doesn't have to listen to anybody. They are a totally arbitrary organization, and they act the way they want to act. They are very jealous of their territory, and what they consider to be their prerogatives. They feel NO obligation to answer to anyone but themselves!

Caller: Hello. I support what you guys are doing 100%.

Colmes: But what do you think that they could give you in terms of programming that's missing in NY?

Caller: I think that it's not so much the programming, that's secondary. It's more the fact that there's no "personality" on the radio anymore. If you remember back in the heyday of NY radio, the DJ's like Dan Ingram and the "Good Guys" played music which was tightly formatted and playlisted, but they also interjected their own personality into their shows between the music. That's what's missing nowadays, and the people on the air don't seem to be having a good time on the air, and that comes across to the listener. Also, I have a question. Will your station have phone lines set up so that listeners will be able to make requests on the air?

Colmes: But the problem with that is that the kids that grew up on that type of radio never developed the content themselves, and it's hard to find good DJ's nowadays that have the personalities to do that kind of radio.

Hayes: Alan, I resent that. I grew up on that radio, we ALL did, and it's reflected in the type of radio that we do. Regarding the question on telephone lines, we probably won't have that in place when we first get back on the air, but we're definitely planning on having live call-in capability soon after we get back on, and we won't have a delay on the phone line, either, so the air personality will have to use his own good judgement when a caller may get out of line.

Colmes: Good luck!! Next call.

Caller: Hello, pirate people. I'd like to ask you, when you get back on the air in the springtime, will I be able to hear your signal in New Jersey, and also, how do you support yourselves?

Ferraro & Steele: You should definitely be able to hear us on the AM and shortwave frequencies, but I'm not sure about the FM, though. It would depend on where in NJ you are. Your second question raises a good point. We are actively soliciting funds from investors and other interested parties so that we might be able to return to the air in the manner that we'd like to, with first-rate equipment and cellular telephones and the like, so we can take requests and talk to our listeners live on the air. We need approximately 50,000 dollars for this upgrading, and interested parties that would like to receive a return on their investment should contact us via our Post Office box number that we gave earlier. We are looking for potential advertisers and presells, as well. Our rates will be very reasonable.

Colmes: Do you fellows think that the FCC will try and intimidate you between now and the springtime when you return to the air?

Ferraro: Well, we all know that they aren't nice guys, and they would probably like to, but it's already been proven that they hit us with everything they had, because they wanted to make a big media show of putting the pirates off the air, but when it came to a court of law, they didn't have anything to go on.

Colmes: But how do you know that they won't come up with some loophole that will give them the ability to shut you down again?

Steele: It would be pretty hard for them to come up with a loophole in an area that it has been proven that they have no jurisdiction in. And, to further elaborate on your question regarding the FCC, they tried every trick and legal maneuver that they could, and they couldn't even get the Justice Department to actually press the charges against us. So, in a situation such as this, any attempt on their part to exercise any form of "prior restraint" against us would not be a wise move on their part, and if it was attempted, we're sure that a relatively short court proceeding would get their actions lifted.

Colmes: You know, you're taking on Goliath?

Ferraro: Well, someone has to. It may as well be us.

Colmes: Are you the only ones taking on the government in this manner? Are there other pirates in other parts of the country doing things like this?

Ferraro: There have been radio pirates on the air at least since the 1930's. They have never been totally stamped out by the FCC, and I daresay that they never will be.

Colmes: Ladies and gentlemen, we've had the "radio pirates" on with us today. If you would like to contact them, you may write to them at Radio New York International, P.O. Box 010073, Staten Island, N.Y., 10301-0003. Fellows, thank you very much for being here today, and folks, keep your radios tuned for them in the springtime, on 103.1 MHz. FM, 1620 kHz. AM, and on the shortwave bands, as well.

CLANDESTINE PROFILE
by
George Zeller

NOTE:
NEW
ADDRESS

3492 West 123rd Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44111
home phone 216-941-3366 ncc
work phone 216-696-9077 ncc

NEW QTH FOR EDITOR

Things are a little different this month, since I am in the middle of moving to a new Cleveland QTH. The new address is written at the top of the column. As I write this, Ohio Bell has yet to hook up the new telephone line, but by the time you read this, the new number should be working. (If by some chance something gets fouled up, you could easily get the accurate number by dialing (216) 555-1212). I have imminent plans to erect an Antenna Supermarket Slopers along with a new high gain TV antenna with a rotor, so hopefully this move will not get in the way of DX-ing for very long. Your input to the Clandestine Profile column is welcome VIA the new QTH. Let's teach the new mailman how to find the house.

I have high hopes that the new QTH will drastically reduce the television oscillator QRM from my neighbors that was hindering my DX-ing, as well as the power line noise that was coming from a defective fire alarm box down the street. For those who are interested in the performance of the new sloper, I'll report on its behavior after I've had a chance to use it for a while.

LA VOZ DEL CID

Ulis Fleming of Maryland has once again sent in a large amount of wood material. Ulis correctly points out that CID has moved its 6305 KHz channel back up to 7380, where it operates not parallel to its 9940 and 11635 frequencies. Radio Clarin from the Dominican Republic on 11700 KHz continues to relay CID programming, but it is still not parallel to any of the other frequencies. I am not sure that 7380 was a wise frequency choice, in that CID is subject there to RTTY QRM, as well as the normal mess from other high-powered SWBC broadcasters on 41 meters that has also impacted the North American pirates. However, the programming is generally audible, despite the interference. CID has been shifting its frequencies from time to time ever since it went on the air years ago, so it might not be very long until we see another move. It is not totally impossible that proximity to the new Costa Rican Radio For Peace on 7375 KHz might have had something to do with CID's return to 41 meters.

RADIO IMPACTO

Ulis also points out that in mid-December, Radio Impacto started up a service on 5030 KHz in the 60 meter band. The programming is parallel to Impacto's long-running transmitter on 6150 KHz. The 49 meter frequency is often buried under European SWBC stations, but the new 5030 frequency is in the clear. I've often heard it with S9 signals; the transmitter seems relatively powerful. Impacto is a licensed station, but it has strong ties to the CIA, and it regularly mixes a hard line anti-Sandinista programming among its music and other features. Ulis speculates, probably correctly, that 5030 KHz was chosen for its adjacent channel proximity to the Cuban Radio Rebelde on 5025 KHz. Impacto's signal dwarfs that of Rebelde, at least here in Ohio.

LA VOZ DE ALPHA 66

Ulis Fleming also points out that this anti-Castro station still maintains its 0200 UTC schedule for about a half hour on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Alpha 66's distinctive 6666v frequency makes them easy to find. Both Ulis and I are certain that they use an old tube-type ham VFO in their transmitter, because the station has always drifted up in frequency during its short broadcasts ever since it first went on the air. I have noticed that sometimes this drift sets as much as 3 KHz too high during Alpha 66 broadcasts, and that sometimes the carrier starts to FM as a result. So, occasionally the station engineers will tweak the VFO down during the half hour broadcasts. The resulting frequency jumps are technical transmitter adjustments, and are not designed to avoid any jamming, such as the continual frequency hopping on the 6 MHz frequency of Radio Venceremos.

Ulis also makes the very interesting observation that Alpha 66 has announced that their shows are also relayed on the Radio Mambi broadcasts of Miami's WAQI-710 medium wave anti-Castro station. This relay is supposed to be heard on Monday mornings UTC at 0400 (11 PM Sunday in Miami EST). As this column pointed out late last summer, the late Ron Schatz found that the anti-Castro community in Miami has strong operational links with Radio Caiman. They also produce most of Radio Mambi's programming, and it now seems evident that they relay shows from La Voz de Alpha 66. It would be no surprise at all if the same groups are responsible for Alpha 66's relays on 6666 KHz, which are still widely suspected to be coming from a QTH in Florida. Those of you in South Florida might check out this announced Alpha 66 relay over WAQI.

RADIO LIBERACION

Ulis also sends in a copy of a very interesting article from the January 11 Washington East. A commission has been set up to monitor the implementation of the Arias peace plan for Central America. During a visit of this commission to El Salvador, the Duarte government complained that Nicaragua is still supporting the leftist guerrillas in El Salvador (of Radio Venceremos fame). In a counter-charge, the Nicaraguan government complained that El Salvador is "allowing Radio Liberation, the Contras' official radio, to operate out of El Salvador." General Adolfo Blandon, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in El Salvador, was the source for the fact that the governments exchanged these charges. Blandon claimed that he offered to let the commission conduct an on-site inspection of the area in question, presumably to establish that Radio Liberation's transmitter was not there, but the 13 member commission backed off because of lack of time.

Since January 11, Ortega has announced that Nicaragua is complying with the Arias plan, and that he even will hold direct negotiations with the Contras. However, in a January 17 Associated Press article, several US congressmen complained that Reagan and Elliott Abrams are still demanding more military aid to the Contras, while having no intention of complying with Costa Rican President Arias' plan. Obviously, things are still hot in Central America, and there is no sign at all that clandestine activity will soon cease there. Radio Liberation is still heard nightly around 0200 on 5889 KHz, between bouts of QRM with Kol Israel, as well as on its medium wave frequency of 1520 KHz (not parallel to 5889, and not very well heard in most of North America for obvious reasons).

LITTLE CORN ISLAND

Ulis also sends in a copy of a very interesting old article by Bob Beason in the November 1970 issue of *Electronica Illustrated*. Beason discusses the exploits of himself and Tom Kneitel in the investigation of Radio Americas' QTH on Swan Island. Beason speculated that after the USA deeded Swan Island back to Honduras, the CIA and/or the US Government might establish facilities on Little Corn Island, which is only 100 miles from Bluefields, Nicaragua. (The Corn Islands also include Great Corn Island). Nicaragua owns the island, according to the article, but the USA holds a 99 year lease on the islands that will not expire until 2011. Beason spread the rumor that a radio transmitter was being erected on Little Corn, to replace the Swan Island facilities being returned to Honduras jurisdiction.

When speculation takes place on the QTH of Central American and Caribbean clandestines, Swan Island often pops up on the list of usual possible suspects. Perhaps the Corn Islands should be added to the list. This old article is another indication that rumors and speculation have been correlated with clandestine station analysis just about since the beginning of DX-ing as a hobby.

GERRY DEXTER ON TURKISH CLANDESTINES

In his December 1987 *Clandestine Confidential* newsletter, Gerry Dexter reported that the longest running clandestine among currently active stations, the Voice of the Turkish Communist Party, signed off the air permanently in mid-November. The Communist Party was recently legalized in Turkey, and its leaders were allowed to return from exile to Turkey, thus accounting for the station's permanent QRT. A sister station, Bizim (Our) Radio, remains on 7355 KHz with a listed schedule of 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 18 hours UTC. The 1500 and 1800 transmissions have sometimes been reported in North America during the winter despite the obvious severe QRM problems from CHU in Canada. If you hear something under CHU that is not obviously Radio Moscow, it could be Bizim Radio from Turkey.

Gerry's CCN newsletter is a fine bi-monthly summary of clandestine news and station activity. He has been asking for more reader support lately. Why not send \$10 to Gerry at RR 4, Box 110, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin 53147, in support of the valuable service he performs for clandestine hunters.

THANKS

This month we thank Ulis Fleming and Gerry Dexter for their information. I apologize for the poor quality printer used this month, which was unfortunately dictated by my QTH move. In future months, I hope to return to the normal type face that is much more legible and I look forward to hearing from you!

Assoc. of Clandestine Radio Enthusiasts

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The Association of Clandestine radio Enthusiasts (A'C'E) is a club dedicated to the monitoring of unlicensed, unusual, unexplained, and unofficial radio broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts, covert communications, or Euro-pirates, The A'C'E publishes information each month which is of interest to you.

Pirates: A'C'E is famous for its thorough coverage of a subject that has been controversial in shortwave circles for years. Some clubs refuse to print pirate loggings because column editors don't like pirates. We want you to have information which helps you hear the interesting, often outspoken, and satirical programming these stations offer. Our pirate feature editor provides in-depth interviews with operators of North American pirate stations.

Varied Response: provides you with QSL information (and addresses) as well as offering some very honest and often controversial commentary, often invoking spirited responses from members.

Euro-Pirates: The European continent is a hotbed of pirate broadcasters. Although some are hobby operators, a great many stations are very professional, often commercial, operations. Our correspondent in England compiles Free Radio information on broadcasts throughout Europe.

Clandestine: Defined as unlicensed transmissions containing messages aimed at achieving social change. Each month, our clandestine columnists provide some insight into the political

views behind these broadcasts as well as telling you when and where they can be heard throughout the world!

Technical: Find out how to make the most of your equipment and its capabilities. From setting up to equipment modifications and all points between - you will find the most thorough coverage in the hobby here in The A'C'E.

SPY Numbers: Although most of the mystery surrounding these transmissions has been uncovered, there is considerable interest in this field. Read the latest news here regarding these stations.

A'C'E Annual Membership Dues

U.S. and possessions, Canada (1st Class)	\$12.00
World Air Mail	\$18.00
Sample Issue	\$ 1.50

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